

Mr. DANIEL. He is not the only one. There is another officer who goes around every morning with the supply officer and the medical officer, so that I do not think there is much chance of inferior food being provided.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. If any inferior food should have been delivered, the supply officer has the authority to refuse it and purchase good food and charge it up to the contractor.

Mr. BEATTIE. If the food is bad, the officer of the day is to blame, because he inspects it at six o'clock in the morning, and has a right to report it to the commanding officer. So that I do not see how improper food could be supplied. I would like to ask the minister, did the report that the bacon was bad come from the men?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. No, it came from the disappointed contractor.

Mr. J. D. REID. I do not mean to say that the food supplied was bad food; but the contract called for rolled bacon, which had been supplied for years before, and the man at Halifax who tendered supposed that he would have to supply rolled bacon. The man who got the contract quoted a lower price than rolled bacon could be supplied for. The result was that rolled bacon was not supplied. I have not seen any statement in any newspaper either by the department at Ottawa or by the officer in command at Halifax, denying the statement that was in the Halifax paper. That convinces me that rolled bacon was not supplied by the contractor. There was no investigation by the department to find out whether the statement in the newspaper was true or not. Therefore until I have further evidence, I am perfectly satisfied that the contractor did not carry out the contract, and that the men did not get the quality of food which the government intended to supply them. They were deceived and the government was defrauded so far as that contract was concerned.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. My hon. friend reverses the good old rule of holding a man innocent until he is proven guilty. If I were to occupy my time in answering all the false statements that are made in regard to the department and the way it is administered, it would take all my time. I do not propose to do that. We have a regular means, as hon. gentlemen know, by which every complaint from the humblest man in the force can reach me or his superior officer. In this case I did not think that I was called on to make an investigation, because no charge was made except one in an utterly unreliable newspaper, coming from a disappointed contractor.

Mr. WARD. Was there ever any charge made by the commander of that regiment as to the quality of the food?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. None whatever.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. Did the officer of the day for inspecting the rations make any reports?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. His reports were all favourable. There has never been any question or challenge of this particular article. My hon. friend says there has been no contradiction. I have no doubt whatever that the bacon which was tendered for was delivered.

Grants to rifle and artillery associations and bands, \$55,000.

Mr. W. J. ROCHE (Marquette). What is the basis upon which these grants are made? Does every rifle company get a grant?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. The basis is \$1 per head up to forty and fifty cents for every additional member up to eighty, so that \$60 would be the maximum. This is for civilian rifle associations.

Royal Military College, \$95,000.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. There are slight increases in the professors' salaries and the general expenses are greater.

Mr. DANIEL. What salaries are increased?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. The adjutant of the college gets an increase of \$500; the professor of mathematics \$300.

Mr. DANIEL. Is this a special increase for the adjutant?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. It will be paid to his successor. It is for the adjutant of the college.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. I see the caterer has resigned. What system is now followed? The system in vogue should be condemned.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. The caterer used to receive 50 cents a head. He wanted 60 cents. I thought that was rather a large increase and sent an officer to investigate. I am satisfied we can do very much better by taking charge of the food ourselves within the college as at the different depots. The officers are anxious for the change.

Mr. SAM. HUGHES. I have heard various yarns about the officers being surprised at the stuff the boys had to eat.

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. So I believe.

Mr. DANIEL. There are several military officers there, are they entitled to rations? Are any of these rations turned over to the caterer?

Sir FREDERICK BORDEN. That has never been done.